

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 13253 151637Z

46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 GSA-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

L-03 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 /081 W

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R 150150Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7906

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, IN

SUBJ: STOCKPILE CONSULTATIONS -- METALLURGICAL MANGANESE ORE

REF: STATE 224152

1. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SHOULD RECEIVE PASSIVELY THE DEPARTMENT'S UPCOMING PRESENTATION OF GSA'S PROPOSAL TO INCREASE MAXIMUM STOCKPILE DISPOSAL RATE OF METALLURGICAL MANGANESE ORE FROM 500,000 TO 750,000 TONS ANNUALLY. THE GOI DISCONTINUED ALL EXPORTS OF METALLURGICAL GRADE MANGANESE ORE (TO ALL DESTINATIONS ON MARCH 31, 1973, "TO CONSERVE DOMESTIC ORES AND TO MEET GROWING DEMANDS WITHIN THE COUNTRY."

2. OFFICIALS OF THE GOI-OWNED MINERALS AND METALS TRADING CORPORATION (MMTC) INFORMED THE MINERALS ATTACHE NOVEMBER 14 THAT THE "TOTAL BAN" ON EXPORTS OF INDIAN METALLURGICAL GRADE MANGANESE ORE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT "UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE." MMTC NOTED ALSO THAT WHILE EXPORTS OF THE LOWER QUALITY ORES ARE BEING CONTINUED, PLUS35MINUS48 PERCENT MN ORES HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY 20

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 13253 151637Z

PERCENT BELOW INDIA'S 1971 EXPORT LEVEL OF THIS GRADE, AND

EXPORTS OF ORES CONTAINING LESS THAN 35 PERCENT MN
(FERRUGINOUS ORES) HAVE BEEN PEGGED AT THE 1971 LEVEL.
REPORTEDLY, FURTHER EXPORT REDUCTIONS OF THESE QUALITY
RANGES ARE PLANNED FOR 1974.

3. ALTHOUGH INDIA HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT WORLD PRODUCER
OF MANGANESE ORE (ALL GRADES) FOR MANY YEARS: THE OUTLOOK
IS NOT BRIGHT. A CURRENTLY-POPULAR MISCONCEPTION HOLDS
THAT INDIAN MANGANESE RESERVES NO LONGER EXIST IN QUANTITIES
SUFFICIENT FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION PLUS EXPORTS. THIS
IS UNTRUE. IN REALITY, THE RECENT DECLINE OF INDIA'S
MANGANESE INDUSTRY IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE GOI IN
ACTION AS IT MOVES UNNECESSARILY, AND WITH ABANDON, TO CON-
VERT AN INDUSTRY TO PUBLIC SECTOR CONTROL. THE ONCE-
COMPETENT PRIVATE SECTOR IN MANGANESE IS DYING RAPIDLY,
MANGANESE ORE RESERVE DEVELOPMENT HAS COME TO A STANDSTILL
(THOUGH SIGNIFICANT POTENTIALS EXIST), AND THE GOVERN-
MENT'S PUBLIC SECTOR SEEMS CONTENT TO REACT SUFFICIENTLY
TO MEET DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS ONLY.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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